(b) It was recommended that importance should be given to Animal Husbandry, Fishery, Forestry and Water Management to improve the agricultural production and productivity.

(c) Recommendations have been noted.

Housing Projects in the country

1148. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a very slow investment in the Housing Projects in the country;

(b) whether during the last four decades urban population in India has increased from about 380 million ot 770 million;

(c) whether during the same period investment in housing has increased from Rs. 1000 crores in the 5th plan to 30,000 crores in the Seventh plan period;

(d) to what extent Government propose to increase the investment in the Housing sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) whether the total investment in the country in the housing sector has steadily decreased from 34 per cent in the Fifth plan to just 9 per cent in the Seventh plan?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) and (e) The total public and private sector investment in Housing has recorded progressive increase in absolute monetary terms over the successive five year plan periods. However in terms of the percentage of housing investment to total investment in the economy, there has been a decline from 34 per cent in the First Plan (Not Fifth Plan) to 9 per cent in the Seventh Plan.

(b) No, Sir. The estimated total urban population 1981 was about 180 million, and precise figures will be available for 1991 only after completion of 1991 Census operation.

(c) The investment in housing in public and private sector is estimated to have gone up from Rs. 1150 crores in the First Plan to Rs. 31458 crores in the Seventh Plan.

(d) Investment in housing sector during the 8th Plan is yet to be finalised.

Shortage of diesel for agriculture sector

1149. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps this year to provide diesel to the farmers for agricultural purposes; if so, what are the details of the steps taken in this regard;

(d) what is the likely impact of the shortage of diesel on the agricultural production and also on movement of foodgrains this year and in what manner this shortage would be made good; and

(c) what is the percentage of farmers in the country who use diesel for agricultural purposes and what measures are being taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of diesel in future also to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHNDBHAI SHAH). (a) to (c) Farmers use diesel mainly for operating tractors, irrigation pumps and other power driven machines. Percentage of farmers owning and operating such machines has never been worked out, but is not likely to be large among the total number of farmers in the country. In view of the balance of payment constraints, certain restrictions were imposed in supply of High Speed Diesel (HSD) through retail outlets throughout the country with effect from 8-10-1990 and an 8 per cent cut was applied on supplies of HSD which was increased to 10 per cent from 1st November, 1990. State Governments complained about shortage of diesel and likely adverse impact on Rabi sowing, but no definite

reports about extent of such adverse impact on agricultural operations have been received.

Instructions were issued to State Governments and oil companies to give priority to agricultural operations in distribution of diesel at the retail outlets, and this was done in most of the States. The 10 per cent cut on supplies of HSD to retail outlets was withdrawn w.e.f. November 26, 1990 which provided substantial relief to the agricultural sector throughout the country. Special releases of HSD have also been made to 17 major States in February 1991 and the State Governments have been advised to take necessary action to use the increased allocation for agricultural operations.

Differences on the issue of fertilizer Subsidy.

1150. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are differences on fertilizer subsidy between the Deputy Prime Minister and the Finance Minister;

(b) what is the total amount allocated at present for fertilizer subsidy in this country; and

(c) whether Government have reviewed the fertilizer subsidy to the effect that it reaches the farmers directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) According to the Budget Estimates for 1990-91, the amount allocated for fertilizer subsidy is Rs. 4000 crores (i.e. Rs. 3250 crores for indigenous and Rs. 750 crores for imported fertilizers).

(c) All aspects of fertilizer subsidy are being reviewed by Government from time to time.

Allotment of houses under HUDCO pattern scheme

1151. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELURAHMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority held a draw of lot in the month of October, 1990 for allotment of houses under New Pattern HUDCO 1979 Scheme;

(b) what was the premium of land charged for LIG flats in pocket A-3 Group 11 in Kondli Gharoli LIG Complex from the allottees of the draw held in October, 1990;

(c) what was the land premium charged for the same type of flats in the same locality in the draws held prior to October 1990;

(d) what are the reasons for the increase in the land premium in addition to the usual increase of price of LIG flats;

(e) whether Government propose to charge the same land premium from the allottees of the draw held in October, 1990; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Short supply of essential commodities at F.P.S.

1152. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Wheat, Rice, Sugar and Palmolien are in short supply and are mostly not available at the Fair Price Shops in the country; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to make these items available freely at the Fair Price Shops?